

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 21, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 29-32, 34, and 40 are amended; as a result, claims 18-44 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 29, 31, 34, and 40-44 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (U.S. 5,665,659) or of Naito (U.S. 5,750,439) in view of IBM Discl. Bull. Vol. 17, No. 10, pp 2867-2869 ("IBM").

Claims 29, 31, 34, and 40 are amended to include elements similar to the elements of the allowable claim 32. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 29, 31, 34, and 40 be allowed.

Claims 41-44 depend on claim 40. In view of the amendment to claim 40, Applicant also requests that the rejection of claim 41-44 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 41-44 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-28, 30, 34-39 were allowed.

Claims 32 and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 32 is rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 32 and its dependent claim 33 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative ((612) 373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743


Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. FARRAR ET AL.

By their Representatives,

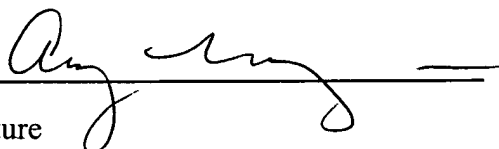
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 373-6969

Date 12-19-03

By 
Viet V. Tong
Reg. No. 45,416

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 19th day of December, 2003.

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